

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FEBRUARY 11, 1867.

Read twice, referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. DELANO, on leave, introduced the following bill :

A BILL

To declare the ratification of the fourteenth article of the Constitution of the United States, proposed by the first session thirty-ninth Congress.

Whereas during the first session of the thirty-ninth Congress, by the adoption of a joint resolution for that purpose, Congress did propose to the legislatures of the several States of the United States for their ratification the following amendment to the Constitution of the United States, to wit :

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both houses concurring,) That the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said legislatures, shall be valid as part of the Constitution, namely :

ARTICLE FOURTEEN.

SECTION 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

SEC. 2. Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But when the right to vote at any election for the choice of electors for President and Vice-President of the United States, representatives in Congress, the executive and judicial officers of a State, or the members of the legislature thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such State, being twenty-one years of age, and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged, except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the number of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens twenty-one years of age in such State.

SEC. 3. No person shall be a senator or representative in Congress, or elector of President and Vice-President, or hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who having previously taken an oath as a member of Congress, or as an officer of the United States, or as a member of any State legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof.

But Congress may, by a vote of two-thirds of each house, remove such disability.

SEC. 4. The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations, and claims shall be held illegal and void.

SEC. 5. That Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

SCHUYLER COLFAX,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

LAFAYETTE S. FOSTER,

President of the Senate pro tempore.

Attest :

EDWARD MCPHERSON,

Clerk of the House of Representatives

J. W. FORNEY,

Secretary of the Senate.

Therefore—

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
 2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
 3 That said amendment has been duly and legally ratified by
 4 the number of States required by the Constitution, and said
 5 amendment is hereby declared to be to all intents and pur-
 6 poses part of the Constitution of the United States, and shall
 7 be received and held as such in the several courts of the
 8 United States and of the several States.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the Secretary of
2 State is hereby directed and required to announce by procla-
3 mation to the people of the United States, that said amend-
4 ment has been ratified in due form of law, and shall be here-
5 after received and accepted as part of the supreme law of
6 the land ; and also to cause said amendment to be duly filed
7 in his office and published with the laws and joint resolutions
8 of the second session of the thirty-ninth Congress.